

CHAPTER 4

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The preparation of comprehensive plans for the Village of Barrington and other Villages in the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) should include a study of all municipal services to identify ways of making Village governments more effective through mutual cooperation. If all Barrington area governments were to develop independently, the need for personnel and public facilities would increase, administrative costs would rise sharply and, in many cases, duplication of staff, services and facilities would result. For these reasons, intergovernmental cooperation should be pursued whenever possible.

Decisions regarding intergovernmental cooperation in the provision of municipal services will be based on the following objectives:

1. Efficient and high level public facilities and services should be provided.
2. Efficient maintenance of public facilities and services should be undertaken.
3. The level of cooperation and communication among BACOG and non-BACOG jurisdictions should be increased.
4. Duplication of facilities, services and expenditures among BACOG jurisdictions should be minimized.
5. Service provision should be periodically reevaluated and modified as necessary to meet changing community needs.
6. Costs for new services and facilities should be allocated fairly among BACOG jurisdictions, and between the public and private sectors.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The Village of Barrington should continue to evaluate its capacity for supplying area-wide services. Should the sharing of municipal services be deemed necessary or desirable, such service arrangements should be based on a fully allocated cost structure (including capital costs on a current replacement basis) and cause no adverse impact on service level to the residents of the Village of Barrington. The Village of Barrington shall consider shared services, to the extent that they are advantageous to both Barrington and the other participating municipality(s). Shared services with non-BACOG communities, unincorporated area organizations and county services should be encouraged wherever possible.

Principal areas of municipal services, which may require on-going study, are general administration, water and wastewater service, public safety and recreation.

General Administration

Barrington has the largest Village staff in the BACOG area and has the resources to provide a self-sufficient administrative organization. Village staff could potentially assist the other Villages in the BACOG area with services, such as documentation, mapping, GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and the compilation of land-use information. To the extent possible, the Village staff should assist the various committees of BACOG in research activities leading to proposed courses of action.

Inspection services may be offered to those BACOG communities that adopt codes substantially consistent with those adopted by the Village of Barrington. Sharing of inspection staff could substantially benefit BACOG communities by providing continuity, consistency and uniformity in building standards, while supplying additional staff during peak construction periods. Sharing of inspection services should be explored and encouraged where there appears to be an economic and service advantage. Workshops covering municipal administration for representatives from all Villages could be an effective means of improving the capability of BACOG Villages while

achieving a degree of uniformity throughout the area. Joint purchasing and sharing of resources may be highly advantageous to all Villages in the Barrington area.

Water and Waste Water Service

The operation of an area-wide sewage disposal system is not based upon political boundaries, but rather upon the configuration of natural drainage basins (see [Figure 2, Flood Plain Map](#)). The “Flint Creek” basin is very similar in size and shape to the recommended configuration of the Village of Barrington itself. Though the present site of the sewage treatment plant could accommodate additional capacity, it is unlikely that the expense related to the pumping stations and interceptor sewers would justify extending the system beyond the limits of the Flint Creek basin.

The Village water supply is provided by four (4) shallow wells of 3000 gallons per minute total capacity. In addition, the Village has ground storage for 1.5 million gallons and 1.9 million gallons of elevated storage. The Village is exploring options to manage high iron levels within the shallow wells.

It is the policy of the Village NOT to extend water and sewer beyond its corporate limits, unless there exists a special purpose, district or another municipality with which to enter into contracts specifying terms of payment as well as land use restrictions.

A Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Analysis was prepared by Baxter and Woodman Environmental Engineers in January 1989. The study indicated that the hydraulic capacity of the present facilities is adequate for the average flow from both the present population and the growth projected by this comprehensive plan.

Recycling and Refuse Collection

Refuse collections should continue to be provided through independent agreements between the Village and private scavengers. However, area-wide planning should be intensified with regard to recycling, the location, operation and ultimate capacity of waste disposal sites and cooperative efforts for waste conversion to alternate uses.

Fire Protection

In the foreseeable future, it would appear that the Village of Barrington would continue to provide fire, EMS, and specialized rescue services to the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District. As a member of BACOG, the Barrington Area Council of Governments and the Village should encourage an expanded use of neighboring fire departments in the form of automatic aid on an initial responses basis as a means of containing rising costs and improving services to the entire Barrington area. The Barrington area will encourage maintenance of a combination of a paid-on-call and full-time staffed fire department. The Village of Barrington is committed to providing the highest quality emergency service that the budget will support.

Police Services

There are several aspects of law enforcement, which could be provided by the Village of Barrington to adjacent municipalities. Due to the significant cost of equipment, personnel and training, etc., the economic feasibility of an area-wide police force should be considered. Shared services on an individual municipal basis can be continued and/or expanded, if economically feasible, for the following services:

Communications and Dispatching: As a means of meeting the higher level of service demands and mandates of law, the Village of Barrington should continue to explore and expand the regional dispatch concept for both police and fire service. As the electronic industry makes new technological advances, it is suggested that the Village take advantage of the shared costs associated with a regional dispatch center to keep the equipment state-of-the-art, the facilities modern and staff at the optimal levels.

Training: Training between Village of Barrington Police, Fire and Public Works departments, as well as outside agencies, should be encouraged in order to maintain the highest standards of public service, utilizing state-of-the-art techniques and area resources to meet those unusual service needs. Training between the Fire Department and the

Police Department should be encouraged in order to maintain the highest standards of public service, utilizing state-of-the-art techniques and preparation.

Patrols: As in the case of Inverness, the Village of Barrington could provide a regular patrol service under contract to other Villages.

Facilities: The facilities of the Barrington Public Safety Building might be utilized by other Villages for the temporary detention of such persons who cannot be taken directly to county detention facilities.

Equipment Purchase: The collective purchase of expensive and sophisticated equipment such as police cars, fire engines, ambulances, electronic equipment, arms, etc., should be continued and encouraged to reduce the cost to all participants whenever possible.

Recreation

The most desirable alternative for providing local park and recreation services is that of a single park district for the entire BACOG area. This need is acute outside the Village of Barrington, where there is a great disparity in the amount, quality and availability of park and recreational opportunities, and within Village limits where disproportionate costs are borne by Village residents. Intergovernmental services do not adequately meet current or future needs for parks and recreation. The Village supports the consolidation of Park Districts in whole or in part within the BACOG area.

Cooperation among neighboring communities will be especially crucial to implementing bikeway routes and greenway corridors and open space acquisitions. A 1997 study (discussed in more detail in the Transportation Chapter of this plan) recommends that an additional 13 miles of bikeways be constructed within the Village of Barrington. It will be of benefit to the entire region for neighboring communities to coordinate their efforts in this regard, so that a regional network can ultimately be created.